

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A real-image variable-magnification viewfinder comprising:

an objective optical system, having a positive optical power, for forming a real image in an optical path;

an eyepiece optical system, having a positive optical power, for transmitting the real image formed by the objective optical system to a pupil of an observer; and

an erecting optical system, disposed in the optical path, for inverting the real image formed by the objective optical system,

wherein the objective optical system ~~includes~~ consists of three lens units arranged in the following order, from an object side of the objective optical system:

a first lens unit having a positive optical power;

a second lens unit having a negative optical power; and

a third lens unit having a positive optical power,

wherein, as zooming is performed from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end, at least one of the second lens unit and third lens unit is moved in such a way that the second lens unit and third lens unit come closer to each other, and the following conditional formulae are fulfilled:

$$-0.75 < m_{2W} < -0.3$$

$$-2 < m_{2T} < -1.05$$

$$-0.75 < m_{3W} < -0.3$$

$$-2 < m_{3T} < -1.05$$

$$L_2 > L_3$$

where

m_{2W} represents a lateral magnification of the second lens unit at the wide-angle end;

m_{2T} represents a lateral magnification of the second lens unit at the telephoto end;

m_{3W} represents a lateral magnification of the third lens unit at the wide-angle end;

- m_{3T} represents a lateral magnification of the third lens unit at the telephoto end;
- L_2 represents a movement distance of the second lens unit over an entire zoom range; and
- L_3 represents a movement distance of the third lens unit over the entire zoom range.

2. (Original) A real-image variable-magnification viewfinder as claimed in claim 1,
wherein, when zooming is performed, the second lens unit is moved and the third lens unit is kept stationary.

3. (Original) A real-image variable-magnification viewfinder as claimed in claim 1, wherein in a portion of a zoom range, the second lens unit is kept stationary and the third lens unit is moved.

4. (Original) A real-image variable-magnification viewfinder as claimed in claim 1, wherein the erecting optical system comprises two prisms.

5-12. (Withdrawn).

13. (Currently amended) A real-image variable-magnification viewfinder comprising:

an objective optical system, having a positive optical power, for forming a real image in an optical path;

an eyepiece optical system, having a positive optical power, for transmitting the real image formed by the objective optical system to a pupil of an observer; and

an erecting optical system, disposed in the optical path, for inverting the real image formed by the objective optical system,

wherein the objective optical system ~~comprises~~ consists of three lens units arranged in the following order, from an object side of the objective optical system:

a first lens unit; and

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at least two succeeding lens units,

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↘ wherein the first lens unit is moved to adjust dioptric power, and zooming is achieved by moving at least two of the succeeding lens units in such a way that magnification is variable within a range extending to both sides of unity magnification.
